

News and Notes of the Concert World

Conductor Traces History Of Music in Brooklyn

Herbert J. Braham, of Orchestral Society, Claims Brooklyn's Place in Musical World Assured by Establishment of Local Orchestra

Brooklyn is to have a secure place in the musical world from now on through the establishment of the Brooklyn Orchestral Society, according to the conductor of the society, Herbert J. Braham, in a special article, "Brooklyn as a Music Center," which is the feature of the current issue of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Bulletin. Mr. Braham traces the history of musical effort in Brooklyn, beginning with the formation of the Brooklyn Philharmonic Society, under Theodore Thomas in 1865, through the Seid Orchestra and the singing societies of Brooklyn, down to the present time. Mr. Braham says:

"Civil pride in good government, in well developed and well administered public utilities and in a general air of comfort for rich and poor alike is not sufficient to entitle a city to a place among the great communities. There must be a striving toward artistic growth as well, and there must be some evidence of the attainment of that growth, or else the body will thrive at the expense of the spirit and a materialism so gross that it must carry within itself the seed of its own destruction will become the dominant note. Some forms of art, by their very nature, make public expression as difficult as public participation. Music is more easily to mass demonstration of the artistic community spirit. From the village band to the great symphony orchestra, the purpose is the same, the urge is the same and the effort for degrees, the result is the same.

"True, the larger the community the more difficult does it become to bring about solidarity of aspiration in the matter of musical expression. Yet, just as the concert hall was preceded by the village commons in the development of American civic music, the college campus succeeded the concert hall in our most modern and ambitious musical entertainments—back to first principles, as it were, only on a scale that was not great enough to years ago when only small groups went to concerts. As for Brooklyn, the love of music has been in the city's heart for decades back. It has not always found the means to express itself in a convincing manner, but there have been difficulties and obstacles greater, perhaps, due to our proximity to New York, than have confronted any other art-loving community.

"The test of the desire for musical self-expression lies, in my opinion, in the possession by a city of a well regulated and capable symphony orchestra, just as symphonic music is music's highest and most noble utterance. With at least two such organizations, overshadowing the entire metropolitan territory, Brooklyn has been compelled to start and stop, start and stop again, many times, but the handicap, great though it may appear, was not great enough to become insurmountable. It has now been surmounted. The Brooklyn Orchestral Society, which made its debut last winter at the Academy of Music and is planning one or two great concerts for the coming season, is an accomplished fact. Its days of experimentation are over. It has been acknowledged the living nucleus of Brooklyn's future great symphony orchestra.

"While the forces which have made this orchestra possible were quietly at work, superficial observers believed that Brooklyn always would remain dependent upon New York for the needed glory of being a part of a community which boasts the New York Philharmonic, the New York Symphony and the National Symphony orchestras. Yet those who think Brooklyn incapable of starting its own music back have only seen knowledge of our community's musical history. Others who know the facts always have seen the promise of a great future in this place.

"Infallible Method of Memorizing"

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NINON ROMAINE

GABRIEL ENGEL

MARY MELLISH



Pianist, Aeolian Hall, Friday afternoon



Violinist, Carnegie Hall, Saturday evening



Soprano, Aeolian Hall, Friday evening

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First Efforts in 1865

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Theodore Thomas was its first con-

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